

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

January 07, 2018
8:45 AM Service – Epiphany
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Then you shall see
and be radiant;
your heart shall
thrill and exult...

Isaiah 60:5, ESV



January 07, 2018

Welcome! Enter with Prayer - Worship in Awe - Leave to Serve.
All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

A Story that Invites Us

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done;

All: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done;

All: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

L: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done;

All: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,

L: making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

All: O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Living God, your star in the East guided the Magi to Jesus - your Chosen Child, but it was a disturbing and difficult journey.

All: When we lack the courage to venture into unfamiliar territory, O God, forgive us.

P: Your star led the Magi to grapple with Herod, an evil person.

All: When we fail to name a source of evil, or fail to affirm the good, O God, forgive us.

P: Your star came to rest over the birthplace of Jesus Christ, where gifts were given him.

All: When we fail to bring our best gifts, or our most appropriate gifts, to serve you, O God, forgive us.



P: Your star was left behind as the Holy Family fled the anger of Herod to Egypt.

All: When we are not able to see the refugee, or to help the stranger in our neighborhood, O God, forgive us.

Time of silent reflection . . .

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: You care about the gifts that are ours, O God, and you want us to recognize them, and to use them well.

All: You will bless us when we confront our lack of courage, and decide to take the rough but right way.

P: God will go with you when you do!

All: And we will rejoice in God's supportive presence.

P: Pardon and peace are yours!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN . . . "As with Gladness Men of Old" vs. 1, 3

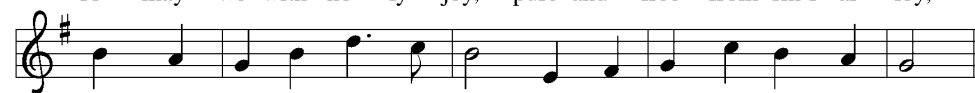
Text: William C. Dix - Tune: Conrad Kocher -- Cranberry Book #302



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.



GREETING

P: God of Advent, of waiting and hoping,

All: keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.

P: God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing,

All: make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.

P: God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known,

All: fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory that we have seen in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

P: Christmas is over, the presents unwrapped.

L: The darkness of our nights threatens to take over our lives

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: Into the quiet of a tiny country, ruled by a faraway emperor.

L: Magi came from another place to encounter God.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: You have greater gifts yet to share with us;

L: reveal more of your great love for us this day.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: Remind us, that like the Magi, we have seen you

L: and we have gifts from you to open for the world.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts, that the world may know your glory and love.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.

All: Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “Keep God’s Light”

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

READING . . . *Ephesians 3:1-12*

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God’s promised salvation.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace

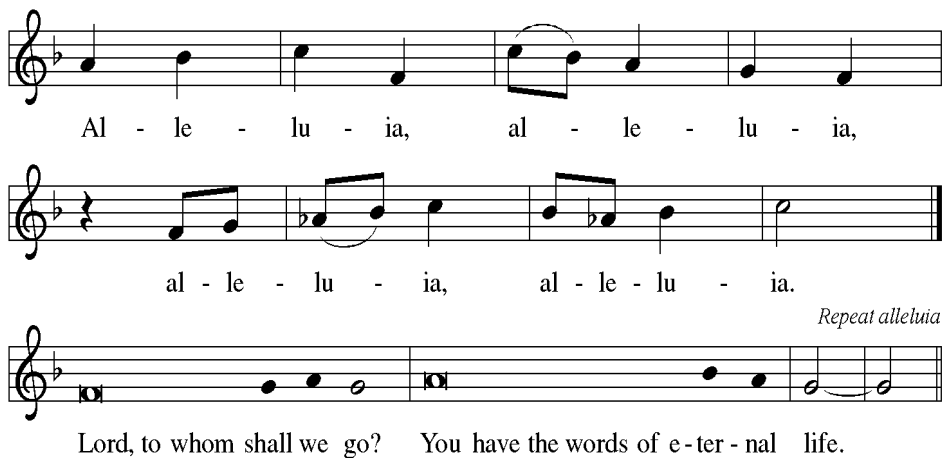
was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION . . .



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the second chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.



GOSPEL . . . Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

vs. 1, 2

Text & Tune: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. – Blue Book #646



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Come into Christ's light with your gifts. They need not be gold or precious oil.

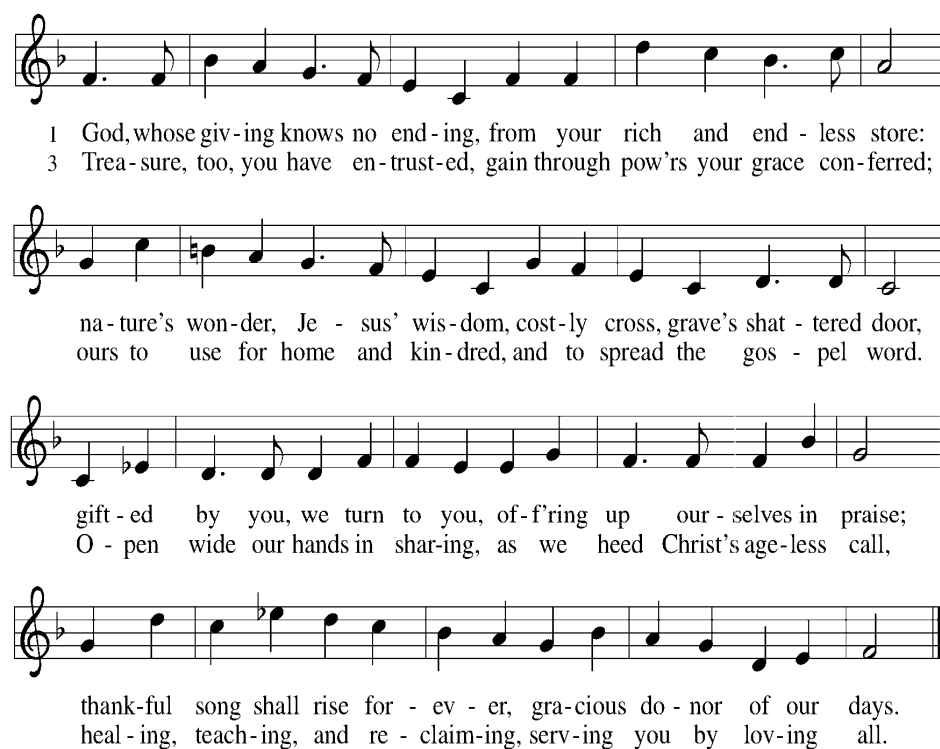
All: Gifts of love and compassion are the greatest treasures of all.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY SONG . . . “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” vs. 1

Text: Robert L. Edwards -Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry- Cranberry Book #678



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;
na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.
gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,
thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger.

All: You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

L: You come again in bread and wine.

All: Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

L: And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others

All: in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the planet that is our common home, communities near and far, and all who are in need. You are water that replenishes the earth. Help us

see our place in the river of life, and inspire us to seek ways to cool warming tundra and warm cooling tropics.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You are water that touches near and distant shores. Bring an end to conflict among the rulers of this earth carried out on land and sea, and provide just and equitable access to water among all people. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You are water that refreshes parched bodies, minds, and spirits. Accompany refugees fleeing their homes by boat and by foot, heal those whose bodies are weak or fragile, and be near to those whose breath of life is fading. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: You are water that flows from countless streams into rivers, lakes, and oceans. Give us vision to see and proclaim in our great diversity the singleness of humanity created in your likeness. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Here now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: Tribes and nations bow down before you, O God. Hear our prayers and praise, and raise us up to be your living body, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: By the leading of a star Christ was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS . . . tune: "From Heaven Above"

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise
To you, Redeemer of our days,
For we have found in Jesus' birth
Good news of peace and human worth.**

THE EUCHARIST

P: God of wisdom, with gratitude and love.

All: we remember your mighty acts.

P: You created a world that was good.

All: You gave us this earth to enjoy.

P: You trusted us to share with you in caring for it.

All: And when we sinned, you still did not abandon us but made covenant with our ancestors.

*P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.*

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

All: Let every heart receive our Savior.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holy Communion is open to all.

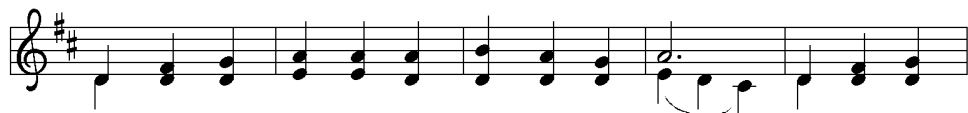
Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Let an usher know if you desire communion brought to you.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Text & Tune: Kathleen Thomerson – Cranberry Book #815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - tcous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig – Tune: Danish - Cranberry Book #301



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us,
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
 that will never lead astray
 with its message so appealing,
 is the word of God, revealing
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey.

All: **As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ.

All: **As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Be Seated

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

Please Stand

CANDLE LIGHTING

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.

The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor's candle.

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

L: Jesus said to go into all the world.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: Into the big cities and small towns

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

L: Jesus said, "Feed the hungry"

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: Shelter the homeless

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

L: Heal the sick

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: Visit the imprisoned.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

L: And ask for nothing in return.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: Expect nothing in return.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

L: Love without expectation.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: Love without strings attached.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

L: Jesus loved for no other reason than to love.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved.**

P: We will do the same.

All: **We will love like Jesus loved. Amen.**

LIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE GO OUT

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

All: **Amen.**

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

All: **Amen.**

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

All: Amen.

P: Go out as Christ's true lights, dispersing darkness, for Christ's grace, power, love and peace go with you.

All: Amen

SENDING SONG . . . "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" v. 1, 4

Text: Ruth Duck - Tune: William H. Walter – Cranberry Book #314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the light of God.

All: Thanks be to God.



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